

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows.

Page 20, please replace the paragraph at lines 10-15 with the following replacement paragraph:

--6.3 Preparation of the strain MG442ΔpoxB/pMW219rhtC

The strain MG442ΔpoxB obtained in Example 3 and the strain MG442 are transformed with the plasmid pMW219rhtC and transformants are selected on LB agar, which is supplemented with 20 µg/ml kanamycin. The strains MG442ΔpoxB/pMW219rhtC and MG442/pMW219rhtC are formed in this way. The strain MG442ΔpoxB/pMW219rhtC was deposited under the terms of the Budapest Treaty on July 15, 2004 at the DSMZ-Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen, Mascheroder Weg 1b, D-38124 Braunschweig, under the accession No. DSM 16575--

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 23-24 with the following replacement paragraph:

--The strain obtained is called AJ11502kurΔpoxB. The plasmid described in the patent specification US-A-4391907, which carries the genetic information in respect to valine production, is isolated from strain NRRL B-12288. The strain AJ11502kurΔpoxB is transformed with this plasmid. One of the transformants obtained is called B-12288ΔpoxB, which was deposited under the terms of the Budapest Treaty on July 15, 2004 at the DSMZ-Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen, Mascheroder Weg 1b, D-38124 Braunschweig, under the accession No. DSM 16576.--